

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to follow an increase in the number of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia and the United States. BPH monitors Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updates, hospital admissions, case numbers, and other data to determine the potential risk to citizens in West Virginia from the virus.

This guidance is intended for administrators and leaders of Community and Faith-Based Organizations (CFBOs) – congregations and places of worship (churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, etc.), voluntary social service agencies and other nonprofit organizations, and community organizations.

CFBOs, working together with schools, businesses, healthcare systems, and state, local, tribal, and territorial health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of disease, especially among high risk populations.

Health officials are working to prevent COVID-19 from spreading in US communities. In coordination with local health departments, CFBOs can take steps to help by sharing information about this disease, how it spreads, and who is at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

At times when widespread community mitigation and physical distancing measures are being encouraged, traditional, in-person worship or fellowship activities should not be held. Alternative approaches that maintain recommended prevention practices should be used and other ways to connect faith-based communities implemented, such as offering phone or online (live or recorded) meetings or worship services. CFBOs should actively practice all recommended disease prevention and other community mitigation measures.

For CFBOs, it is important is to stay connected, to stay a faith-based community, to take care of each other and the broader community, but to do so in safe, creative, and effective ways.

Questions and concerns can be directed to the WV 24/7, toll-free COVID-19 information hotline:

1-800-887-4304

Resources:

- [Interim Guidance for Administrators and Leaders of Community- and Faith-Based Organizations to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Resources for Community- and Faith-Based Leaders](#)
- [Guidance on Stress and Coping](#)
- [Facts to Share About COVID-19](#)
- [Protective Guidance for Non-Healthcare Settings](#)